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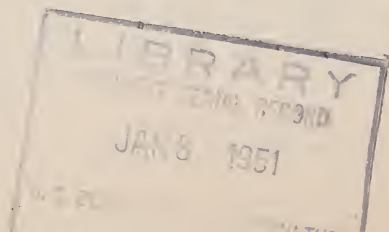
ARGENTINE MEAT PRODUCTION 1937 - 1949

In the last decade and a half the Argentine livestock industry has progressed from a period when outlets were hard to find for the export surplus, which comprised about two-fifths of the production, through World War II when meat supplies were sought by importing countries, to a period when domestic consumption in Argentina has risen to a point where the exportable surplus is about one-fourth of total production, exclusive of farm. During this same period Argentina has undergone periods of adverse weather conditions, in 1942-43, 1944-45 and 1949-50. Also political and economic changes have occurred in the country, which have affected all basic industries. While serviceable estimates covering the trends in livestock slaughter, meat production, consumption and exports for years 1937 through 1949 have been available, official statistics recently released by the Argentine Government now make it possible to have a more accurate review of the trends in this period.

Cattle

Cattle marketings, which totaled 7.9 million head in 1937, reached the peak in 1947 when 9.8 million head were marketed, and dropped to 9.6 million head in 1949, slightly less than those of 1947. The officially recorded slaughter of cattle, however, rose from 7.2 million head in 1937 to 8.9 million head in 1949, with the 1945 slaughter of 6.0 million being the lowest in this period. In 1945 exports of live cattle reached 414,000 head, the largest number exported in the period 1937-1949. In 1949, however, live cattle exports totaled only 93,000 head as a result of restrictions imposed upon these exports in an effort to maximize meat exports at the expense of live cattle shipments, which were less remunerative than meat under the Andes Agreement. (See table 1.)

Beef and veal production, exclusive of farm, reached the peak of 4.2 billion pounds in 1949, an increase of 20 percent above the 1937-39 average of 3.5 billion pounds. Of this total, the proportion for export was the smallest on record, only 24.3 percent, in contrast with the high of 1942 when 45.0 percent of the total represented production for export. On the other hand, the proportion for domestic consumption reached 75.7 percent in 1949, in comparison with the low of 55.0 percent in 1945, reflecting the increasing consumer demand for meat.



In actual quantity, however, the total beef processed for export in 1949 was slightly above 1.0 billion pounds, while export production reached almost 1.7 billion pounds in 1941, the peak in this 13 year period. The 1949 export dropped about 400 million pounds below the average for the 1937-39 period.

Domestic consumption of beef and veal, excluding farm, totaled about 3.2 billion pounds in 1949, an increase of more than 1.1 billion pounds above the 1937-39 average. (See tables 2 and 3.)

Sheep and Lambs

The official slaughter of sheep and lambs in 1949 totaled 7,349,000 head, the lowest since 1937 when 7,081,000 head were slaughtered. This was over 40 percent below 1944, when a record total of about 12.6 million head was recorded.

Mutton and lamb production, excluding farm, in 1949 was about 60 million pounds below 1948 and more than 200 million pounds below the 1944 peak of 511 million pounds. The proportion for export in 1949, however, represented 62.3 percent of the total, in comparison with 49.1 percent in the 1937-39 period. Correspondingly, the percentage of mutton and lamb produced for consumption decreased from 51.0 percent in 1937-39 to 37.7 percent in 1949. (See tables 4 and 5.)

Hogs

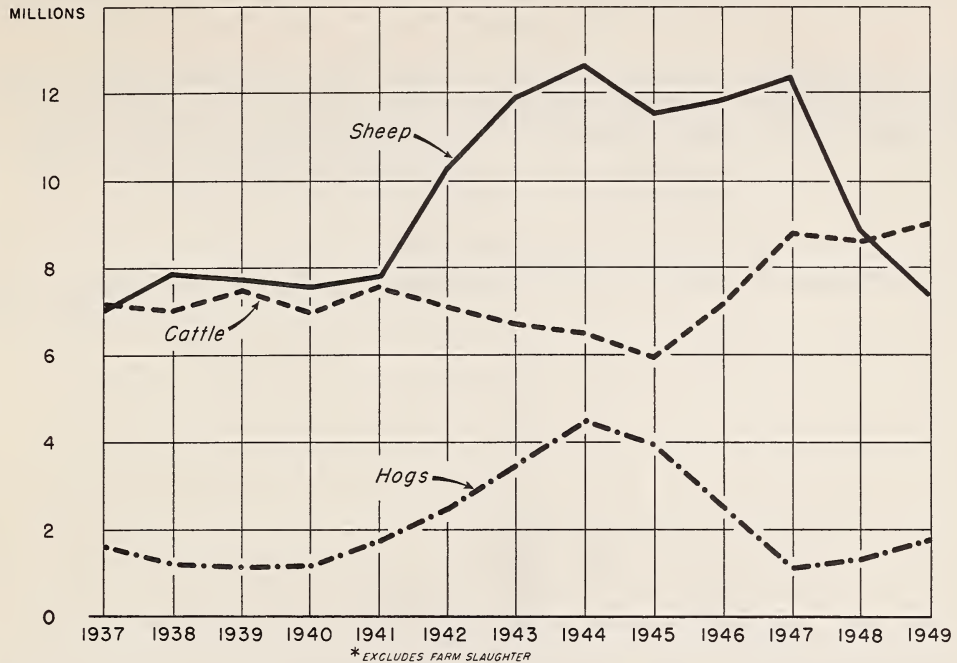
Total official hog slaughter, in the period under review, reached a peak of 4.5 million head in 1944, declining to a low of 1.1 million head in 1947. The 1949 total of 1.7 million head showed an increase of about 30 percent above the preceding year and a similar increase above the 1937-39 average. Hog slaughter for export in 1949 dropped to 20.4 percent of the total, the lowest since 1940 when 14.4 percent of the total slaughter went into export. Correspondingly, slaughter for domestic consumption increased to 79.6 percent of the total, in contrast with the year 1944 when 52.8 percent was earmarked for consumption.

Pork production, excluding farm, totaled 340 million pounds in 1949, an increase of about 27 percent above the previous year and 54 percent above the 1937-39 average. The pork output was increased substantially during World War II, reaching a record level of 830 million pounds in 1944, almost 3 times larger than the prewar production. Increased consumer demand for pork products has reduced the percentage for export to 20.7 percent in 1949, in contrast with 27.6 percent in the 1937-39 period and a high of 48.3 percent in 1944. (See tables 6 and 7)

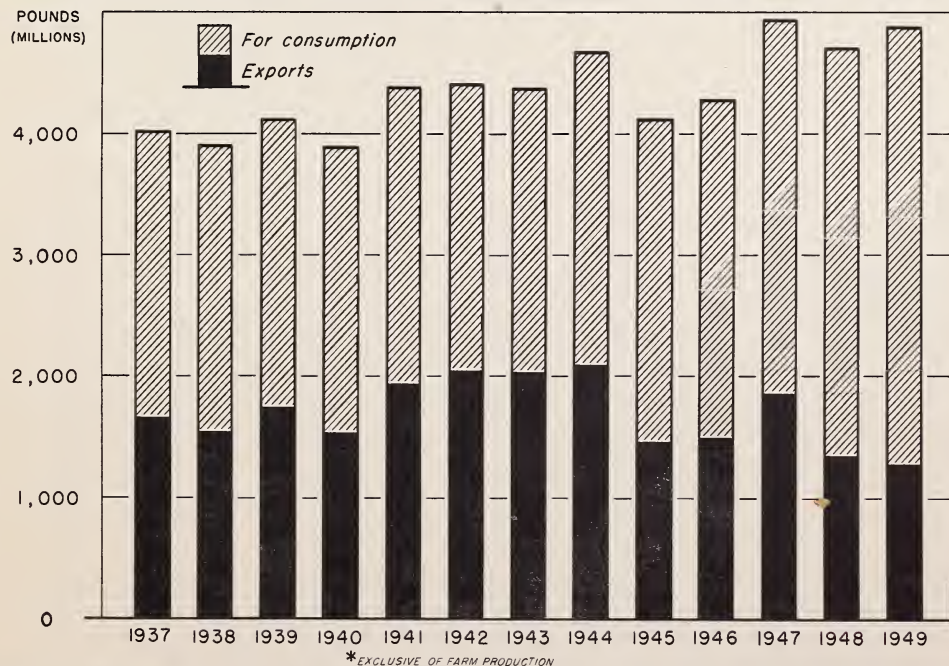
Total Meat Production

Total production of meat in 1949, exclusive of farm, reached 4,863 million pounds, exceeded only by 1947 when the meat output totaled 4,922 million pounds.

ARGENTINA: SLAUGHTER OF SHEEP, CATTLE AND HOGS, 1937-49*



ARGENTINA: TOTAL MEAT PRODUCTION FOR EXPORT AND CONSUMPTION, 1937-49*



The 1949 output was over 20 percent above the 1937-39 average, with beef and veal representing 87 percent of the total in 1949 and 88 percent in prewar. (See table 8.)

Total meat production for export in 1949 showed a decrease of 4 percent below the preceding year, approximately 22 percent below the 1937-39 average. On the other hand, the 1949 production for domestic consumption exceeded the prewar level by more than 50 percent.

Prepared by Hazel B. Kefauver, based on a report from C. A. Boonstra, American Embassy, Buenos Aires

TABLE 1. MARKETING OF CATTLE IN ARGENTINA, 1937 - 1949

Year	Registered slaughter	Live exports	Estimated unregistered farm slaughter	Total marketings
	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>
1937	7,161	71	687	7,919
1938	7,069	123	704	7,896
1939	7,455	134	714	8,303
1940	6,984	126	704	7,814
1941	7,578	120	697	8,395
1942	7,138	153	563	7,854
1943	6,698	248	528	7,474
1944	6,520	244	568	7,332
1945	5,975	414	608	6,997
1946	7,186	340	731	8,257
1947	8,733	348	674	9,755
1948	8,597	409	606	9,612
1949	8,906	93	600	9,599

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and National Meat Board.

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TABLE 2. CATTLE SLAUGHTER REGISTERED IN ARGENTINA 1937 - 1949

Year	For Export			For Consumption						Total Slaughter (excl. farm)	
	Frigerificos and Factories		Total	Frigerificos and Factories		B.A. Municipal Plant		Interior Plants			
	Head	Percent of total		Head	Percent	Head	Percent	Head	Percent		
	1,000		1,000		1,000		1,000		1,000		1,000
1937	2,418	33.8	4,743	66.2	1,140	24.0	1,025	21.6	2,578	54.4	7,161
1938	2,207	31.2	4,862	68.8	1,085	22.3	1,132	23.3	2,615	54.4	7,069
1939	2,528	33.9	4,928	66.1	1,034	21.0	1,174	23.8	2,720	55.2	7,456
1940	2,121	30.4	4,863	69.6	1,044	21.5	1,201	24.7	2,618	53.8	6,984
1941	2,762	36.5	4,816	63.5	1,013	21.0	1,207	25.1	2,596	53.9	7,578
1942	2,647	37.1	4,491	62.9	867	19.3	1,182	26.3	2,442	54.4	7,138
1943	2,279	34.4	4,419	66.0	754	17.0	1,368	31.0	2,297	52.0	6,698
1944	2,069	31.7	4,451	68.3	700	15.7	1,289	29.0	2,462	55.3	6,520
1945	1,293	21.6	4,682	78.4	627	13.4	1,331	28.4	2,724	58.2	5,975
1946	1,700	23.7	5,486	76.3	715	13.0	1,503	27.4	3,268	59.6	7,186
1947	2,449	28.0	6,284	72.0	1,110	17.7	1,653	26.3	3,521	56.0	8,733
1948	1,755	20.4	6,842	79.6	1,223	17.9	1,747	25.5	3,872	56.6	8,597
1949	1,683	18.9	7,223	81.1	1,239	17.2	1,763	24.4	4,221	58.4	8,906

Source: Ministry of Agriculture
Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations 10/31/50

TABLE 3. BEEF AND VEAL PRODUCTION IN ARGENTINA FOR EXPORT AND DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, 1937 - 1949 1/

Year	For Export		For Consumption						Total 1/ Production	
	Frigerificos and Factories		Total		Frigerificos and Factories		B. A. Municipal Plant		Interior Plants	
	Mil. lb.	Percent of total	Mil. lb.	Percent of total	Mil. lb.	Percent	Mil. lb.	Percent	Mil. lb.	Percent
1937	1,453	41.7	2,032	58.3	530	26.1	309	15.2	1,193	58.3
1938	1,343	39.5	2,057	60.5	492	23.9	340	16.6	1,225	59.5
1939	1,543	42.3	2,109	57.7	482	22.8	368	17.5	1,259	59.7
1940	1,313	38.6	2,087	61.4	518	24.8	357	17.1	1,212	58.1
1941	1,659	44.1	2,106	55.9	528	25.1	376	17.8	1,202	57.1
1942	1,592	45.0	1,950	55.0	422	21.7	397	20.3	1,131	58.0
1943	1,392	42.3	1,897	57.7	349	18.4	484	25.5	1,064	56.1
1944	1,321	39.6	2,017	60.4	377	18.7	500	24.8	1,140	56.5
1945	824	27.9	2,125	72.1	335	15.8	529	24.9	1,261	59.3
1946	976	28.7	2,428	71.3	332	13.7	580	23.9	1,516	62.4
1947	1,417	33.8	2,780	66.2	494	17.8	657	23.6	1,629	58.6
1948	1,039	25.5	3,036	74.5	534	17.6	696	22.9	1,806	59.5
1949	1,025	24.3	3,194	75.7	543	17.0	692	21.7	1,959	61.3

1/ Excludes farm production

Source: Ministry of Agriculture
Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations 10/31/50

TABLE 4. SHEEP AND LAMB SLAUGHTER REGISTERED IN
ARGENTINA, 1937 - 1949

Year	For Consumption												Total Slaughtered (excl. farm)
	For Export				Frigorificos and Factories				B. A. Municipal Plant		Interior Plants		
	Frigorificos and Factories		Total		Frigorificos and Factories		Per-cent		Head		Percent		
	Head	Percent of total	Head	Percent of total	Head	Percent	Head	Percent	Head	Percent	Head	Percent	
	1,000		1,000		1,000					1,000		1,000	7,081
1937	3,736	52.8	3,345	47.2	1,812	54.2			572	17.1	961	28.7	7,839
1938	4,193	53.5	3,646	46.5	2,014	55.2			507	13.9	1,125	30.9	7,682
1939	3,946	51.4	3,736	48.6	1,753	46.9			706	18.9	1,277	34.2	7,518
1940	4,582	61.0	2,936	39.0	1,200	40.9			563	19.3	1,168	39.8	7,770
1941	4,391	56.5	3,379	43.5	1,461	43.2			626	18.5	1,292	38.3	10,236
1942	6,516	63.7	3,720	36.3	1,752	47.1			630	16.9	1,338	36.0	11,900
1943	8,658	72.8	3,242	27.2	1,388	42.8			600	18.5	1,254	38.7	12,582
1944	9,006	71.6	3,576	28.4	1,531	42.8			565	15.8	1,480	41.4	11,552
1945	8,562	74.1	2,990	25.9	873	29.2			557	18.6	1,560	52.3	11,811
1946	8,731	73.9	3,080	26.1	821	26.6			573	18.6	1,686	54.8	12,315
1947	9,335	75.8	2,980	24.2	1,068	35.8			539	18.1	1,373	46.1	8,872
1948	5,721	64.5	3,151	35.5	1,091	34.6			601	19.1	1,459	46.3	7,349
1949	4,452	60.6	2,897	39.4	844	29.1			703	24.3	1,350	46.6	

Source: Ministry of Agriculture
Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations 10/31/50

TABLE 5. MUTTON AND LAMB PRODUCTION IN ARGENTINA FOR EXPORT
AND DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, 1937 - 1949

Year	For Export			For Consumption						B.A.Municipal Plant		Interior Plants		Total.l/ Production Mil. lb.
	Frigorificos and Factories		Total	Frigorificos and Factories		Percent	Mil.lb.	Percent	Mil.lb.	Percent	Mil.lb.	Percent		
	Mil.lb.	Percent of total		Mil.lb.	Percent of total									
1937	124	48.2	134	66	51.8		49.1		26	19.1	42	31.8	258	
1938	150	50.9	144	73	49.1		50.6		22	15.1	49	34.3	294	
1939	132	47.8	143	62	52.2		43.6		31	21.8	50	34.6	275	
1940	176	60.2	116	43	39.8		36.8		22	18.8	51	44.4	292	
1941	168	56.1	131	51	43.9		38.7		23	17.9	57	43.4	299	
1942	269	65.7	140	57	34.3		40.5		24	17.4	59	42.1	409	
1943	353	74.0	124	45	26.0		36.4		24	19.1	55	44.5	477	
1944	376	73.6	135	48	26.4		35.8		22	15.9	65	48.3	511	
1945	354	74.4	122	27	25.6		22.6		26	21.0	69	56.4	476	
1946	359	74.6	122	26	25.4		21.2		23	18.9	73	59.9	481	
1947	389	76.7	118	32	23.3		26.9		24	20.4	62	52.7	507	
1948	237	65.8	123	34	34.2		27.7		25	20.3	64	52.0	360	
1949	189	62.3	115	26	37.7		23.1		29	25.0	60	51.9	304	

1/ Excludes farm production

Source: Ministry of Agriculture

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TABLE 6. HOG SLAUGHTER REGISTERED IN ARGENTINA, 1937 - 1949

Year	For export			For consumption						Total Slaughter (excl. farm)	
	Frigerificos and Factories		Total	Frigerificos and Factories		B.A. Municipal Plant		Interior Plants			
	Head	Percent of total		Head	Percent	Head	Percent	Head	Percent		
	1,000		1,000		1,000		1,000		1,000	1,000	
1937	516	32.1	1,089	67.9	581	53.3	316	29.0	192	17.7	1,605
1938	348	27.9	897	72.1	398	44.4	309	34.4	190	21.2	1,245
1939	251	21.7	905	78.3	296	32.7	363	40.1	246	27.2	1,156
1940	169	14.4	1,007	85.6	397	39.5	379	37.6	231	22.9	1,176
1941	550	31.9	1,177	68.1	471	40.0	424	36.0	282	24.0	1,727
1942	906	36.8	1,555	63.2	717	46.1	529	34.0	309	19.0	2,461
1943	1,557	44.5	1,943	55.5	971	50.0	576	29.7	396	20.3	3,500
1944	2,137	47.2	2,389	52.8	1,291	54.1	586	24.5	512	21.4	4,526
1945	1,593	40.1	2,376	59.9	1,291	54.4	609	25.6	476	20.0	3,969
1946	1,069	41.9	1,481	58.1	616	41.7	528	35.6	337	22.7	2,550
1947	281	25.5	819	74.5	231	28.2	389	47.5	199	24.3	1,100
1948	316	23.8	1,014	76.2	341	33.6	465	45.9	208	20.5	1,330
1949	355	20.4	1,382	79.6	517	37.4	615	44.5	250	18.1	1,737

Source: Ministry of Agriculture

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations 10/31/50

TABLE 7. PORK PRODUCTION IN ARGENTINA FOR EXPORT AND DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, 1937 - 1949

Year	For Export			For Consumption				Interior Plants		Total Production Mil.lb.	
	Frigorificos and Factories		Total	Frigorificos and Factories		B. A. Municipal Plant	Interior Plants				
	Mil.lb.	Percent of total		Mil.lb.	Percent		Mil.lb.	Percent			
1937	84	32.1	177	67.9	93	52.6	61	34.2	23	13.2	261
1938	56	27.7	145	72.3	63	43.6	59	40.6	23	15.8	201
1939	46	23.1	154	76.9	52	33.7	72	46.8	30	19.5	200
1940	30	15.0	172	85.0	71	41.0	73	42.7	28	16.3	202
1941	112	34.8	209	65.2	90	42.9	85	40.8	34	16.3	321
1942	178	38.8	280	61.2	135	48.0	108	38.6	37	13.4	458
1943	284	45.5	340	54.5	176	51.8	116	34.1	48	14.1	624
1944	401	48.3	429	51.7	244	56.8	123	28.7	62	14.5	830
1945	275	40.5	405	59.5	218	53.9	129	31.9	58	14.2	680
1946	157	39.1	245	60.9	95	39.0	111	45.2	39	15.8	402
1947	56	25.7	162	74.3	47	29.2	90	55.2	25	15.6	218
1948	60	22.6	207	77.4	68	32.8	112	54.0	27	13.2	267
1949	71	20.7	269	79.3	101	37.7	135	50.0	33	12.3	340

L/ Excludes farm production

Source: Ministry of Agriculture

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TABLE 8. ARGENTINA: PRODUCTION OF MEAT BY TYPES,
ANNUAL 1937-1949

Year	Beef and Veal	Mutton and lamb	Pork (excl. lard)	Total Excl. farm	Farm <u>1/</u>	Total incl. farm
	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>
1937	3,485	258	261	4,004	--	--
1938	3,400	294	201	3,895	--	--
1939	3,652	275	200	4,127	--	--
1940	3,400	292	202	3,894	--	--
1941	3,765	299	321	4,385	--	--
1942	3,542	409	458	4,409	640	5,049
1943	3,289	477	624	4,390	625	5,015
1944	3,338	511	830	4,679	645	5,324
1945	2,949	476	680	4,105	750	4,855
1946	3,404	481	402	4,287	770	5,057
1947	4,197	507	218	4,922	705	5,627
1948	4,075	360	267	4,702	580	5,282
1949	4,219	304	340	4,863	545	5,408

1/ Unofficial estimates

Source: Ministry of Agriculture

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Dr. T. U. Reed	13695 Jefferson St.	Chicago	Ill.	60646	46	146
Dr. V. W. Cook	13997 Adams St.	Chicago	Ill.	60647	47	147
Dr. X. Y. Bell	14299 Monroe St.	Chicago	Ill.	60648	48	148
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